(a) the impact of Tsunami on marine product exports from the country in 2004-05;

(b) whether the MPEDA has submitted an interim report on the expected fall in exports of marine products in this fiscal year;

(c) what steps are proposed to boost exports for the remaining part of this fiscal year; and

(d) the details of incentives MPEDA propose to give to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has furnished some preliminary information to the Government giving the likely fall in exports as the result of the Tsunami. It has been reported that the Tsunami has caused extensive damages to the infrastructure for fishing such as boats, nets and landing jetties, which is likely to affect the landing of fish and exports as well.

(c) and (d) Government has been taking necessary steps to build up infrastructure facilities. Further, the Government through MPEDA has been implementing a number of schemes to boost the exports of marine products. These scheme include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; marketing support; etc.

Views of EU Trade Commissioner on Domestic Market

†178. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Commissioner of European Union during his recent visit to India has asked India to open its domestic market more;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) In his interactions during his visit to India, the European Union Trade Commissioner has discussed various WTO and multilateral trade issues, including opening up of Indian domestic markets.

(b) and (c) Multilateral trade issues, including opening up of domestic markets among WTO members are subject to negotiations. A coordinated and comprehensive view on such issues is taken after due consultation and consideration.

Sale of Karnataka tobacco without penalty on farmers

179. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any proposal from Government of Karnataka requesting to accord approval for the sale of entire tobacco produced in Karnataka without imposing penalty on the farmers;

(b) whether Government would consider this proposal and approve it; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Govenment of Karnataka during 2004. However, a representation has been received from Government of Karnataka pressing for a decision regarding the fixation of crop size and regularization of unauthorised barns in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Problems of coffee growers in Karnataka

180. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of long standing problem of coffee growers of Karnakata;